

NORTHEAST DURHAM QUADRANT CONTENTS

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FORMER BENNEHAN-CAMERON PLANTATION

SR 1004, Stagville vicinity

The Bennehan-Cameron Plantation was a family-owned enterprise that embraced 30,000 acres, a sizable portion of what is now northeast Durham County and beyond. Major plantation buildings on smaller tracts survive within what is now the Treyburn subdivision. As part of an empire that was North Carolina's largest antebellum plantation, they are unique resources invaluable to the history of plantation life in the South and to the history of Durham County.

STAGVILLE 1787-1799 (NR)



The extraordinary saga began when Richard Bennehan moved to North Carolina after purchasing a one-third interest in a store belonging to William Johnston on the latter's Snow Hill plantation in 1768. Bennehan prospered, and in 1776 bought land along the Flat River and married Mary Amis, heiress to slaves and land in Northhampton County. Two children, a son, Thomas, and a daughter, Rebecca, were born to the couple, and by 1778 Bennehan was shown in the tax list as the owner of 1,213 acres, 31 slaves, and many other possessions. After the Revolutionary War, he expanded his holdings again and in 1787 acquired 66 acres from Judith Stagg. He retained or chose the name "Stagville" for this tract, and built a modest one-and-a-half-story Georgian-style home for his family there, enlarging it in 1799 by adjoining a more imposing two-story three-bay structure of the same style complete with nine-over-nine sash

windows, molded weatherboards, massive double-shouldered chimneys, and a heavy six-paneled entry door. The interiors of both sections of the Stagville house are Georgian in style, ornamented by raised panels on doors, wainscots, and mantels; simple paneled mantels, and six-panel doors hung on H and L hinges.

Richard Bennehan served as a member of the building committee for the first state capitol at Raleigh and after 1799, as a trustee of the University of North Carolina where his son, Thomas, was one of nine graduates in 1801. At his father's death in 1825, Thomas Bennehan inherited Stagville. A graveyard at Stagville contains the graves of Richard, Mary, and Thomas Bennehan.

FAIRNTOSH 1810-1823 (NR) (NHL)



In 1803, Rebecca, the only daughter of Richard and Mary Amis Bennehan, married Duncan Cameron, a Virginian by birth, a lawyer, and rich businessman in his own right. Bennehan gave the couple three hundred acres of land near Stagville in 1810, and the plantation was called "Fairntosh," for Duncan's father's birthplace in Scotland. The best craftsmen in the region were hired to build a grand dwelling that, when completed, consisted of two separate structures joined by a breezeway connector. First to be built was a two-story, double-pile, five-bay house with a center-hall plan. In 1817, a smaller, more modest two-story, single-pile, three-bay house with a side-hall plan was constructed behind it and linked to the larger dwelling by a breezeway that was eventually expanded to two stories and enclosed. Service in legislative and judicial positions had taken Duncan Cameron to many parts of North Carolina and given him

an awareness of stylistic changes taking place in architecture, for the Georgian-Federal transitional-style finishing features on both Fairntosh houses show influences of then-fashionable homes in New Bern. The houses are sheathed in molded weatherboards and have nine-over-nine sash windows in the traditional manner, but they are ornamented by modillioned cornices and semi-circular Diocletian windows on gable ends as was done in New Bern. Interior woodwork, too, is finely executed and shows attentiveness to style; the handsome crossetted and paneled Georgian mantels are incised with Federal ornamentation. In 1827, just four years after the Fairntosh houses were completed, a full-width columned piazza was added to the front of the larger house in the latest Greek Revival style. In 1829, however, Duncan and Rebecca moved to Raleigh. Ill health eventually affected six of eight children born to the couple; the oldest son was mentally handicapped, four daughters died tragically within a few years of each other as young adults, and another daughter was a chronic invalid. The operation of Fairntosh was placed in the capable hands of their younger son, Paul.

Paul Cameron, trained as a lawyer, ran Fairntosh according to the most advanced agricultural ideas of the mid-19th century; he was instrumental, too, in improving farming methods throughout in his home state. When Thomas Bennehan died in 1847, he left most of Stagville's 5,000 acres to Paul making him the wealthiest man in North Carolina and one of the wealthiest men in the South. Paul then embarked on an active building campaign, repairing Fairntosh, where he lived, and adding new structures including the slave houses and barn at Horton Grove. He wrote happily in 1850, "after a while I shall have all matters here in a mighty nice fix."

His fortunes increased and before the outbreak of the Civil War in 1860, Paul Cameron's far-flung empire included 30,000 acres of land in several parts of North Carolina and elsewhere in the South. He once claimed to have owned 1900 slaves. Despite heavy losses during the war, Paul retained sufficient capital to invest in railroads and banks and to contribute generously toward reopening the University of North Carolina. During Reconstruction, he moved to Hillsborough and did not live again at Fairntosh.

Of twelve children born to Paul Cameron and his wife, Anne, three survived their father, and at the time of his death he divided his empire, willing the Stagville and Fairntosh houses and six thousand acres of land to Bennehan, his sole surviving son. Like his grandfather, Bennehan Cameron chose to make his home in Raleigh, but he kept a variety of livestock and racehorses at Fairntosh, and visited frequently to follow their progress. He built barns and stables in the 1880s, and from a cupola atop one of them, he is said to have watched his horses at their daily workouts while bouncing one of his two daughters on his knee.

Bennehan Cameron died intestate in 1925. Stagville and Fairntosh afterward went through a period of neglect during which tenants occupied both houses; former Cameron family slaves lived at Fairntosh. In 1950, the estate was divided between Cameron's daughters. Stagville was sold immediately, timbered, and resold to Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company, who as the Liggett Group in 1976 donated the house at Stagville and 71 acres that included the Horton Grove center to the State of North Carolina to establish what is now the Stagville Preservation Center. Sally Cameron Labouisse and her husband carefully restored Fairntosh making it their home until 1970.

FAIRNTOSH FARM BUILDINGS 1810-1880s (NR)

Numerous outbuildings survive near Fairntosh to illustrate the various structures necessary for the operations of a large plantation. Built in perpendicular and parallel rows around the main house, the most important dependencies are a kitchen, dairy, smokehouse, commissary, servants dwelling, office, school, teacher's dwelling, and overseer's dwelling that together form the boundaries of an informal courtyard. West of the courtyard are barns and stables built by Bennehan Cameron in the late 19th century. Between Stagville and Fairntosh in a grove of oaks, the Salem Chapel, built in 1827 by Duncan Cameron, is a rarity in Durham. The simple frame and gable-roofed structure, to which Paul Cameron added a chancel in 1884, may be Durham County's earliest surviving church. East of the chapel, a large slave cemetery is unusual for its stone markers engraved with names and dates of the deceased.

PLANTATION CENTERS

For efficiency of operations, the extensive Bennehan-Cameron lands were divided into a number of plantation centers on which housing for slaves and overseers and farm buildings were constructed. Two of these survive to some extent at Horton Grove and Shop Hill.

HORTON GROVE CENTER CA. 1800-1859

The Horton Grove center, a cluster of historic buildings on four acres of land north of Stagville, was given to the state of North Carolina as a part of the Stagville gift. The oldest building at that location is a late 18th or very early 19th century vernacular Georgian cottage that is thought to have been home to three generations of the Willam Horton family and then to have served the Camerons as a slave house. Of plank construction, the cottage is expanded to the rear by a shed and capped by a broad gable roof that covers the entire structure and extends over a front porch. The interior is divided into a single first-floor room linked by a small enclosed corner stair to an attic, and was carefully finished with horizontal wide-board sheathing and beaded ceiling joists. Despite its dilapidated condition, the Horton cottage is an important remnant of early European settlement in northeast Durham County.

To the rear of the Horton cottage, an impressive group of four two-story slave houses reflect higher quality living conditions for slaves at a time when crude log cabins with dirt floors were customary elsewhere. Built about 1850, these structures were framed with heavy hewn timbers, filled with brick nogging for insulation, and covered by vertical board and batten siding. Four

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families were generally assigned to a house; one room with a large fireplace for cooking was allotted to each family, and space for gardens and orchards was provided so that food could be cultivated after daily tasks were completed.

In a clearing southeast of the slave houses is a collection of tobacco barns characteristic of those which were once plentiful all over the Cameron plantation. These are small, square, gable-roofed structures simply constructed of round or squared logs.



A few hundred yards to the northeast is the great barn or stable. Finished just before the Civil War broke out, the huge structure represents the culmination of Paul Cameron's farm improvement campaign. In an 1860 letter to his father-in-law, Cameron boasted: "I have a very great wish to show you the best stables ever built in Orange, one hundred and thirty-five feet long covered with cypress shingles at a cost of \$6 per thousand." Crafted by hand and supported by a massive timber frame, the great barn is divided into a large central two-story section flanked on either side by a smaller one-story section. The central section is supported by a complex wooden queen post truss system, and it has been suggested that William Percival, designer of the 1859 New East and West Buildings at the University of North Carolina that are intriguingly similar in appearance to the barn, may have provided plans for the structure.¹ The entire barn is clad with vertical board sheathing, and each section is capped with a broad hip roof now covered by metal rather than the cypress shingles mentioned in Cameron's letter. Windows protected by batten shutters are placed regularly on the center section, and doors on all sides open onto a spacious interior with stalls on either side of a transverse aisle that runs the long length of the building. Lofts for storage, located above the stalls at different levels, are

¹ Personal interview with Kenneth McFarland, Director, Stagville Preservation Center, 27 June 1996.

served by a central hoist. At its time, the great barn was an exceptional structure, and today it is among North Carolina's finest antebellum farm buildings.

SHOP HILL CENTER CA. 1780-1890



South of Horton Grove, the cluster of buildings at the Shop Hill center is located at or near the site of the late 18th century Bennehan blacksmith shop on the Indian Trading Path. An 1807 report in the Cameron papers notes "There are a large number of people now at the shope [sic] having their horses shod." The blacksmith shop burned in 1818, but was rebuilt and operating in 1889 when another reference in the Cameron papers describes "stripping tobacco at the barns near the Blk Smith [sic] shop at Stagville." These tobacco barns are likely the two rare air-curing barns of hand-hewn timbers topped by cupolas that still stand at the Shop Hill center. Near them is a pair of slave houses with heavy timber frames and brick nogging, identical to the ones at the Horton Grove center. In front of the barns, a one-story, L-shaped, frame house of late 19th century appearance has an early log ell that may be the home of Judith Staggs from whom Richard Bennehan bought Stagville in 1787. (Adapted from material found in *Piedmont Plantation* by Jean B. Anderson and from personal interviews and documents supplied by Kenneth McFarland, former Director, Stagville Preservation Center).

CLEVELAND BRAGG HOUSE

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SR 1670, Redwood vicinity



Either fertilizer magnate S. T. Morgan or William D. Holloway may have been the first owner of Durham County's fanciest Triple-A I-house. Cleveland Bragg, a prosperous tobacco farmer with whom the house is identified, acquired the dwelling in 1919, but its copious Italianate ornamentation suggests an 1870-1890 construction date. Bragg's deed describes the 118-acre farm he purchased as being "a part of the S. T. Morgan lands and a part of the William D. Holloway land." No local tradition further identifies the original occupant or the builder of the house though the Joseph Holloway House in the vicinity is embellished with similar Italianate detailing.¹

The Triple-A I-house form so common to Durham County, features here an elaborately paneled frieze board with scrolled brackets and teardrop pendants, polygonal vents on each gable, a pedimented entrance flanked by sidelights, and interior rear chimneys with fancy corbelled stacks. A wraparound porch has paneled porch posts and a heavy turned balustrade. Pedimented lintels with decorative sawn work appliques enhance six-over-six double-hung sash windows. A full-width rear shed is thought to have been built at the same time as the house for windows exhibit the same decorative features and the frieze board is bracketed.

1 The Johnston 1887 map of Durham County shows that both the Morgan and Holloway families had large land holdings in this area. Durham County Deed Book 36, page 392, records a transfer of 109 acres from S. T. Morgan to W. T. Holloway on 21 February 1906. Within the next nine years, Holloway inherited 10 acres from his father, W. D. Holloway. On 11 October 1915, in Durham County Deed Book 49, page 130, W. T. Holloway conveyed 118 and 5/8ths acres "being a part of the Morgan Lands and The William D. Holloway Land." to J. L. Martin. Durham County Deed Book 57, page 561 records Martin's sale of the same parcel to Cleveland Bragg on 11 December 1919. Durham County Deed Book 85, page 92, releases any interest T. M. and Nettie Washington had in the property to Cleveland Bragg.

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Exterior alterations to the house have been minimal. In the early 20th century, a shed-and gable-roofed ell with stove chimneys, built in three sections, was joined to the rear shed, a decorative gable was placed above the main entrance on the porch roof, and a six-panel entry door was installed. More recently a section of the front porch has been screened.

On the interior, alterations are more extensive. Late Colonial Revival-style mantels have replaced most original ones, and wallpaper and composition ceiling tile obscure other finishes. Notable among the original interior features remaining is a stairway with an urn-topped polygonal newel post and turned spindles.²

East and south of the main residence, outbuildings include tobacco barns, a farm manager's house, several tenant houses, stock barns, a well enclosure, and numerous storage sheds. A graveyard no longer in evidence is said to have contained markers for Washington family members.³

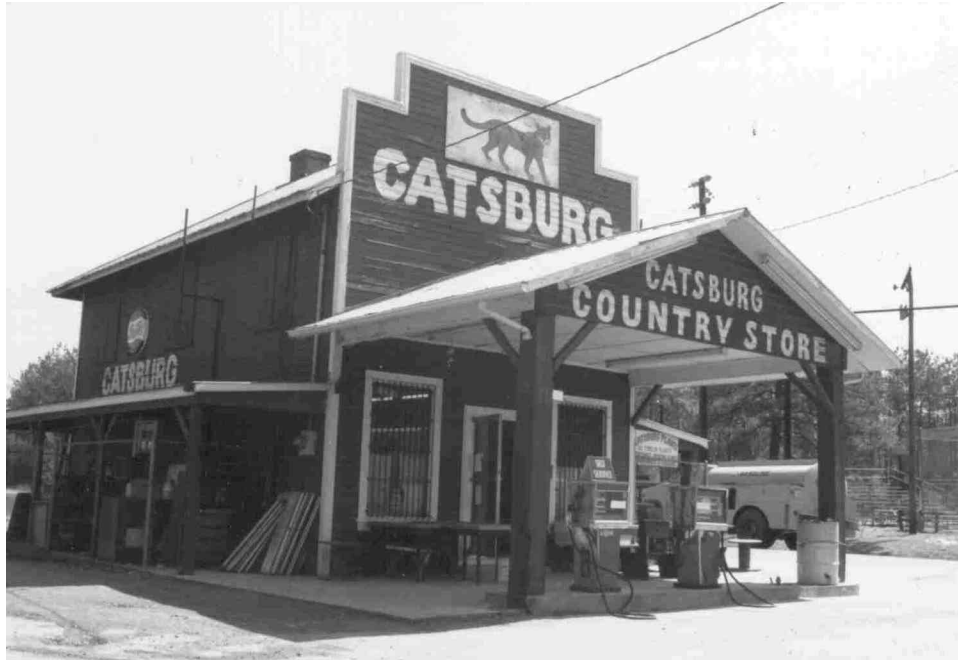


² Did not have access to the interior, and used Ms. O'Keefe's photographs which are not labeled.

³ Personal interview with owner Danny Roberts, 7 August 1996. Mr. Roberts reports that his children have thrown most of the grave markers in the well.

CATSBURG STORE CA. 1920

Jct. SRs 1634 & 1004, Durham vicinity



This two-story, hip-roofed, frame structure is a well-preserved box-and-canopy store. Built in the 1920s by Sheriff Eugene G. Belvin, the store has a high false front, and a one-story gable-roofed porte cochere supported by large wooden posts. The strategic location of the store, at the junction of two major roads serving northern Durham County, gives it considerable visibility, but its renown comes from the large painted image of a black cat on the front parapet above the store's name, "Catsburg." The store is named for Sheriff Belvin, whose nickname was "Cat." Belvin was an extremely popular sheriff with extensive family connections in Durham County, and he provided land for a ball park east of the store. His former residence, a large 1950s two-story frame Colonial Revival-style house, stands in a grove of pine trees next to the ball park.

GEORGE CLEMENTS FARM EARLY 20TH CENTURY (SL)

SR 1004, Durham vicinity



One of the best intact early 20th century farmsteads in Durham County includes this substantial two-story double-pile frame house and its accompanying frame and log outbuildings. Built about 1913 for George Clements, who operated a cotton and corn farm that extended north to the Eno River, the house blends the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Notable features include twelve-over-one and nine-over-one windows, a pedimented entryway, and tall brick chimneys that rise from the pyramidal roof. Brick piers and boxed columns added to the spacious wraparound porch updated its appearance in the 1920s. The house is still owned in 2003 by members of the Clements family although all but sixteen acres of the farm have been sold.

COLCLOUGH-BRAGG HOUSE

FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Off SR 1802, Redwood vicinity



A one-room log house built during the first half of the 19th century was enlarged in the early 20th century by a frame room of the same approximate size, each having a separate entrance and exterior end chimney. A massive rubble-stone chimney serves the 19th century room, and a smaller fieldstone and brick chimney, inscribed, "built by E. H. No [Nov.] 30, 1916," likely provides the construction date of the early 20th century section. E. H., or another builder of the same period, used weatherboard siding and a shed-roofed porch that spans the front facade to unify the house visually as a single structure. Finishes on the interior generally reflect mid-20th century remodeling, but the 19th century room has hewn ceiling joists and a boxed-in corner stair that leads to an attic where hewn framing is pegged together.

The 19th century structure is said to have been constructed by Alexander Colclough who reportedly lived there from about 1820 until he was thrown from a horse and killed in 1831. Colclough and Mary Haswell were married in 1819 and their union produced five children. A daughter, Nancy, with her husband, Thomas Bragg, occupied the house after the death of Mary Colclough in 1855. When the 1900 census was taken, Thomas Bragg was still living in the house along with his daughters, Artelia and Sarah, and a son-in-law, Bob Moore. In 1910, the census reports that Artelia, Sarah, and Bob lived there, though the Miller map of that year shows "Sally" Bragg as the sole tenant. During the 1930s, the farm was purchased by W. T. Carpenter, who, with other family members, established Carpenter Chevrolet, one of Durham's first

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automobile dealerships. Gracie Ayers rented the house until the late 1990's, raising pheasants as an avocation.

Near the house are a number of frame outbuildings that include a well enclosure, a barn with sheds attached, two storage buildings, a privy, and pens for Ms. Ayers's game birds. A small cemetery behind the house has several graves but only one is marked by a stone; it is a memorial for Charliet, son of C. M. And Susan Dhue, earlier owners who died in 1900.



OSCAR DURHAM HOUSE

AGE UNKNOWN

SR1636, Gorman vicinity



This unusual center chimney house sits on a tract known locally as the Oscar Durham Farm. Deed records show that the property belonged to Oscar Durham in the 1910s. It later passed to W.W. Edwards, Sr., who sold the farm to William R. Walker about 1955.

The two-story double-pile residence exhibits a slightly asymmetrical version of the usual three-bay facade, in which the entrance is displaced to the left. The single-leaf door incorporates half-glazing over horizontal panels. Two-over-two, double-hung sash exhibit plain frames. The hipped roof porch is fitted with full-length tapered square columns. The pyramidal roof of the main block is reflected in the high-hipped configuration found on the rear ell. The central brick chimney is elaborately corbelled. The presence of a weatherboard exterior is highly likely beneath "Brickette" imitation brick siding.



The stairs feature square newels and spindles and an intermediate landing approached by four steps. Its placement along the exterior wall of the side hall accounts for the location of the entrance door. The hall is finished with plaster walls and molded baseboards, while the ceilings are made up of narrow boards. Ornate Victorian mantels occupy the corner fireplaces characteristic of center chimney houses. Their decoration

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includes bracket and spindle trim on one example, and heavily molded brackets on another. Doors exhibit four, five or six panels, set in molded post and lintel surrounds. Walls of secondary rooms are finished with beaded boards.

A small assortment of outbuildings consist principally of storage shed. While the tract has been engulfed by urbanizing development, it is sufficiently large to give the house a quality of apartness in its well-landscaped setting.

FORSYTHE-BELVIN HOUSE

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

Off SR 1632, Redwood vicinity



The early 19th century, three-bay, frame dwelling built over a high fieldstone foundation is one of a very few hall-parlor houses that have survived in Durham County. The entry door of six raised panels, held in place by H and HL hinges, opens into an ample hall with wide-board flooring, horizontal wainscoting, and plaster, all refinements that show the house to have been a fine structure of its day. The smaller parlor has wide-board flooring and wide flush-board sheathing. An attic, where the parallel striations of a water-powered reciprocal saw can be seen on framing members, is reached by an enclosed stair at the back of the hall. Shortly after the house was built, two small rooms in an engaged shed at the rear of the house were finished with plaster and wainscoting similar to that in the hall. The house has been vacant and deteriorating for a number of years.

Duncan H. Forsythe and his wife Margaret F. Forsythe are the earliest known owners of the 235-acre tract on which this vernacular Georgian-style dwelling was built. They conveyed the property, then in Wake County, to Charles H. Belvin in August, 1866.¹ At Belvin's death, Emma D. Belvin, wife of his son, Joseph, inherited the house and land. That couple's daughter, Bertha Belvin Hornbuckle, recalled that corn, tobacco, and cotton were the principal crops grown on the farm in the early 20th century. A 19th century corncrib and a number of early 20th century tobacco barns are found near the house. In 1945 Emma Belvin sold the property to W. Arthur Mayton and his wife, and their daughter, Mrs. William Sparrow.²

¹ Durham County Deed Book 77, page 285.

² Durham County Deed Book 163, page 155.

GENERAL HARRIS LOG COMPLEX

CA. 1870

Jct. SRs 1639 and 1631, Orange Factory vicinity



Important as rare surviving examples of housing for newly freed former slaves at the end of the Civil War, these ca. 1870 log dwellings are thought to have been built by Paul Cameron's former slaves as part of their agreement to farm his vast plantation lands in return for food, supplies, and crop shares.¹ Lengthy contracts between plantation owner and tenant farmers specified what was expected of each, and the new workers constructed three sturdy one-room cabins with habitable attics served by boxed stairways at this site. Of special interest are the notching methods used to join the logs at the corners of each dwelling. The southern cabin has half-dovetail notches, the northern cabin, V notches, and the western cabin, diamond notches.



Norwood Harris recalled that his grandfather, General Harris, an African-American farmer, and his family occupied the log dwellings in the early 20th century, raising tobacco, cotton, and corn on surrounding lands. The use of wire nails suggests that about the time of the Harris family's residency, a dogtrot-style house was contrived from the northern and southern cabins by enclosing the space between them, adding doorways to serve the passage or "dogtrot" thus created, constructing a common roof, and attaching a porch across the width

¹ Personal interview with Kenneth McFarland, Director, Stagville Preservation Center, 27 June 1996.

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of the front facade. Interstices (spaces) between logs all through the complex were re-chinked with cement mortar that survives in patches over the original clay mortar. When the dogtrot-style house was completed, the western cabin reportedly functioned as a smokehouse.²



² Personal interview with Norwood Harris, 19 August 1996.

HARRIS-HUMPHREY FARM LOG HOUSE

1940

Jct. SRs 1639 and 1754, Durham vicinity



Square notching was used when Derrick and Zela Harris Humphrey, an African-American couple, built this one-and-a-half-story log dwelling of two rooms in 1940. Mrs. Humphrey, a daughter of General Harris, was familiar with the log construction of her childhood home in the nearby General Harris complex. The Humphreys reused materials salvaged from an older two-story log house on the property, giving their home a broad gable roof and prominent shed-roofed dormer of the then-popular Craftsman-bungalow style. Norwood Harris, a nephew, recalls that the Humphreys raised strawberries, cherries, apples, and Scuppernong grapes on their farm of approximately 70 acres. In her later years, Mrs. Humphrey sold most of the farm, but she made a gift of land to the Mill Grove Primitive Baptist Church now located across the road from the dwelling.

JOSEPH A. HOLLOWAY HOUSE

CA. 1885 (SL)

SR 1637, Redwood vicinity



In the middle 1880's, Joseph A. Holloway married Agnes Mozelle Hicks and built an impressive two-story Triple-A I-house on the foundations of an earlier Morgan family dwelling that had burned. The Holloways utilized a wealth of Italianate architectural details that distinguish their house from plainer Durham County farmhouses of the same period. Similar details are found



on the Cleveland Bragg House nearby. Notable decorative elements include paired eave brackets, a paneled frieze board, a double-leaf entry door with rounded glazed panels, pedimented door and window surrounds with decorative appliques, ornate porch columns, and a porch balustrade with turned spindles. An ell at the rear of the house was extended to join a kitchen with the main block in the early 20th century.

Redwood Road bisects the Holloway farmstead separating the house, two frame storage buildings, and a chicken house, from a barn and a one-room gable-front store on the other side of the road. The Holloways' grandson, Harold Holloway, reports that the store was a

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small family venture operated from the end of the 19th century until 1938.¹ Morgan and Holloway family cemeteries, southeast of the house, are protected by 19th century cast-iron fences. The Morgan graves are not marked, and the earliest marker in the Holloway cemetery is for William Alexander Holloway, son of Joseph and M. A. Holloway [sic], who died in 1892.



¹ Personal interview with Harold Holloway, 11 August 1996.

CHARLES HUSKETH HOUSE

CA. 1918

SR1816, Gorman vicinity



Charles Husketh, a prominent farmer in the Gorman area, built this one story, double-pile house in 1918. He and his wife had three daughters. Husketh donated the land to Gorman Baptist Church where the present sanctuary and cemetery are located; he is buried there.

The residence consists of a rectangular main block to which is attached a hip-roofed rear ell, flanked by two side porches. The side porch facing northwest is fitted with full-length, tapered, square columns, which match those of the wraparound front porch, while the other side porch



has been screened and partially enclosed. The main block has a pyramidal roof, which features a hip-roofed, three-window dormer centrally located above the entrance door. The focal point of the three-bay facade is the half-glazed, horizontally paneled single-leaf entrance door, and its flanking matching sidelights. Windows consist of nine-over-nine, double-hung sash on the main level, with diamond muntined fixed windows in the dormer. Brick interior chimneys feature corbelled tops. The weatherboarding and eaves have been covered with vinyl siding.

Within the house, walls are plastered above the wainscoting. High ceilings are finished with beaded boards. The parlor features a fireplace with a mantle and mirrored overmantel.

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A long drive lined with cedars approaches the house from a point east of the intersection of Red Mill and Gorman Church Roads. The residence enjoys an isolated setting in a mature grove of trees; however, only a distance of few hundred yards separates it from the right-of-way of Interstate 85.

HARRY MORGAN FAMILY COMPLEX

CA. 1920

SR 1670, Redwood vicinity



The Harry Morgan Family Complex, a rectangular, hip-roofed, one-story box-and-canopy store and a Craftsman-style house, typify the house and business ensembles constructed to serve automobile travelers on newly improved roads in Durham County during the 1920s and 30s. The canopy projecting from the main facade of the store is characteristic of an early 20th century service station; it served as a porte cochere, allowing cars to be serviced on either side of gas pumps that stood between its columned supports.

The store was operated by several entrepreneurs for short periods before it was purchased by the Harry Morgan family who operated a gas station and grocery business there from the early 1930s to the 1970s. The Morgans enlarged the store in the 1950s by adding a one-story wing on the east, and a shed extension on the rear where Mrs. Morgan could prepare meals while helping to keep shop.

Located approximately 50 feet northwest of the store, The Morgans' home is a typical 1930s Craftsman-style dwelling with eave braces and an attached gable-roofed front porch. The porch is supported by battered columns on brick piers similar to those on the store's porte cochere. Recent alterations to the house have included screening the porch and installing a covering of vinyl siding.

JOHN NICHOLS HOUSE

CA. 1812

SR 1813, Glen Forest vicinity



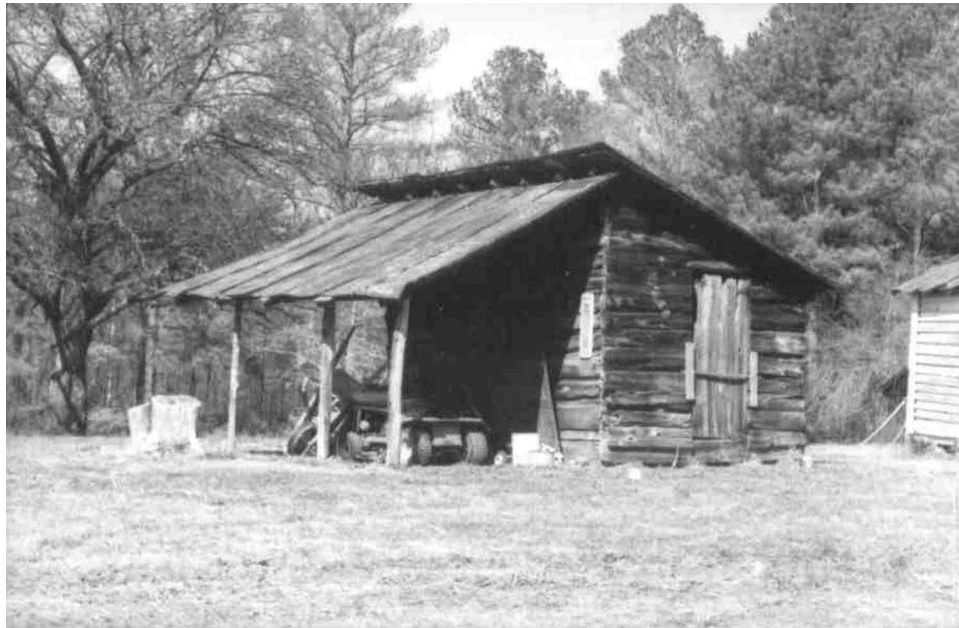
An unusual house type for Durham County, the frame one-and-a-half-story cottage thought to have been built ca. 1812 by John Nichols, has been in his family-by-marriage for almost 185 years. When Nichols was killed in an accident, the house became the property of his widow, Mary, who married Granderson Philpott. Title subsequently passed to Philpott's daughter, Isabella, and her husband Calvin Rogers, who, at various times, was a postmaster, Wake County Sheriff, and Wake County Representative to the General Assembly. Their youngest son, James Rogers, inherited the house, followed in turn by his daughter, Lukie Rogers Hall, then by her nephew, Thomas Rogers, and in the 1990s by his sister, Thomasina Rogers Wilkins.

A broad gable roof notable for prominent dormers, shelters an engaged front porch and a full-width rear shed thought to be original to the house. A small room on the porch was later enclosed. The interior of the house has a hall-parlor plan, and retains much early fabric that includes wide-board flush sheathing, paneled wainscoting, beaded ceiling joists, and one paneled mantel. Both batten and paneled doors are held in place by HL hinges. In 1980 after Thomas Rogers inherited the house, he began its careful restoration, removing inappropriate 20th century alterations, and rebuilding missing features. The double-shouldered chimneys at either end of the house were reconstructed with special care to retain the shape and size of the originals. An entrance discovered adjacent to the chimney on the east facade was opened again. Beaded weatherboards were milled to match and replace deteriorated exterior siding. A three-pane transom that surmounts a front door and double-hung sash windows, nine-over-six, six-over-six, and four-over-four, were repaired or replaced as necessary. A two-story gable-roofed outbuilding, apparently altered and perhaps used as a pack house during the early 20th century,

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is said to have been a late 18th century dwelling that afterward served as a kitchen and slave house.¹ An early log smokehouse and small log barn also stand on the property. A family cemetery near the house contains a number of burials that includes the graves of Calvin and Isabella Rogers who died in 1876 and 1887 respectively.



¹ Personal Interview with Tomasina Rogers Wilkins, 5 September 1996.

NICHOLS-BELVIN-STOKES HOUSE

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SR 1694, Durham vicinity



The Nichols-Belvin-Stokes House, a single-room log farmhouse located on a knoll not far from Ellerbe Creek, dates to the early years of the 19th century. Characteristic of an early homestead are the large fieldstone and brick exterior end chimney, the steeply pitched gable roof, and the rear batten door. The interior contains a single room with original flooring, wide board paneling, a large vernacular Georgian-style mantel, and batten doors with HL hinges. An enclosed stairway leads to an attic where the uppermost sections of hewn log walls can be seen, and at least one original rafter is pegged in place.

Roy L. (Royal) and Sally Stokes, bought the house and 69 acres from the O. W. "Iron" Belvin estate in 1946.¹ Their deed refers to the property as the "Nichols Place" but provides no further identification of that prior owner. During the early 20th century, the farmhouse was covered with German siding and a metal roof, and around 1930, a one-story frame ell was added to the rear of the structure. The ell contains a long rectangular room with an oversized vernacular Victorian mantel that may have been salvaged from another house or assembled from available parts. The farmhouse currently serves as the tack room for Stokes Stables, and in the 1990's a large trailer was joined to its front facade to provide additional space for horse supplies.

¹ Durham County Deed Book 160, page 66.

RHEW HOUSE

CA. 1900

SR 1634, Redwood vicinity



Late Victorian and Craftsman-style features are featured here on the popular one-story, one-room-deep house form. When James and Ida Rhew built their three-bay, tri-gable house in the early 20th century, they embellished it with simple Victorian decoration. Clipped corners at either end of the house are ornamented by a single oval window, and tall chimneys at the rear of the house have corbelled stacks. A central entry door is flanked by sidelights, and windows have pedimented lentils with sawnwork decoration. A small rear ell with identical windows and surrounds was built at the same time as the house. The porch roof follows the contours of the house, and turned pilasters with sawnwork brackets remain at either end though brick pillars and boxed columns of the Craftsman-style have replaced originals elsewhere. Around 1930 a larger ell was added incorporating a kitchen or an earlier structure with a massive fieldstone and brick chimney that has been covered with concrete. A modern deck adjoins the ell on the west facade. Early 20th century outbuildings behind the house include a frame smokehouse, a garage, and a packhouse with metal siding.

FORMER ROSENWALD SCHOOL CA. 1920

SR 1634, Durham vicinity



The owner of this one-story gable-front frame building believes that it was a school for African-American children in the 1920s. The building is very similar in appearance to the Russell School, and is likely one of the eighteen Rosenwald schools constructed in Durham County before 1930. The exterior is very well preserved, with plain weatherboard siding, nine-over-nine sash windows, an interior brick chimney, exposed rafter ends, and two small front porches that flank the projecting central bay. When two school districts in east central Durham County were consolidated as a larger district, the school was closed and the building was sold to Mrs. Waller's father, Robert G. Rigsbee, in 1937. One large classroom on the interior was divided into two apartments for the family.

THOMPSON PLACE

CA. 1905 (SL)

SR 1683, Durham vicinity



Set among mature hardwood trees, this combination L-plan and pyramidal cottage, built around 1905, is one of the best-preserved examples of its type in Durham County. The one-and-a-half-story frame house has a high hip roof with front and side gable-roofed wings, a front porch with original turned posts, two-over-two sash windows with peaked lintels, and corbelled brick interior chimneys. The interior, too, is intact, with medallioned corner block trim, Neoclassical Revival-style mantels with mirrored overmantels, and vertical board wainscoting. The house is said to have belonged to the Thompson family originally.

THOMPSON ROAD LOG HOUSE

AGE UNKNOWN, LATE 19TH OR EARLY 20TH CENTURY

Off SR 1917, Durham vicinity



An archetypal saddlebag plan is found in this two-room, story-and-a-half log house with an attached rear kitchen ell. One room or pen is located on either side of a central chimney and each has a separate entrance. Two families could thus live side by side, an arrangement commonly found in early tenant houses such as this may have been. The house, now covered with asbestos shingles, has four-over-four sash windows on the main floor and casement windows above the front porch roof.

UMSTEAD HOUSE

1926

SR 1634, Redwood vicinity



Barbara and Allan Powell earned the 1986 architectural conservation award from the Historic Preservation Society of Durham for their rehabilitation of the unusual two-story Craftsman-style dwelling built by Odie and Sally Umstead in 1926. The house was badly deteriorated when the Powells purchased it in 1983 along with 50 acres of the original 350-acre farm.

The four-bay frame dwelling has a right-angle plan and is distinguished by its cruciform shape and clipped-gable roof. The main block, oriented east-west, has a perpendicular ell in the center of the south facade and a perpendicular ell in the center of the north facade. A wraparound porch, supported by tapered posts, follows the shape of the house. Fenestration is Craftsman-style; four-over-one double-hung sash windows are placed symmetrically on the south and west facades and on the first floor of the east facade. The attic is illuminated by pairs of small windows with four vertical lights that are placed directly beneath the clipped gables on the south and east facades. Elsewhere fenestration is asymmetrical and arranged according to requirements of the rooms within.

In order to save the house, extensive renovations were required, but most windows and doorways, flooring, several mantels, a staircase with square newels and spindles, and tall brick chimneys were retained. Alterations included re-siding portions of the house, moving the front door from the center bay of the south facade to the westernmost bay, building a bathroom on the east facade, replacing several windows on the west facade, sheetrocking over pine paneling on the interior, and replacing a mantel in the west wing with a new one made of wood salvaged

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from an antebellum house once on the property. A new one-story kitchen ell has been added to the north facade.

North of the house, an early 20th century smokehouse and privy remain on the property. Mid-20th century farm buildings nearby are a frame equipment shed and a tobacco barn. A cemetery west of the house contains graves of the Green and Rogers families. Among twelve graves, mid-19th century markers are for Eleann M. Green who died in 1862, Benjamin Rogers who died in 1866, and Ann[a?] Green who died in 1868.